



*Chair, Families & Human  
Services Committee  
Appropriations Committee;  
Chair, Family Independence  
Agency; Commerce Labor  
& Economic Development;  
Capitol Outlay;  
Higher Education*

*SENATOR  
BILL HARDIMAN*

*E-Hardiman Herald*



*February 6, 2004*

## **SENATOR HARDIMAN PROMOTES BONE MARROW REGISTRY**

During the month of February in conjunction with Black History Month, Senator Bill Hardiman is encouraging African Americans to donate a sample of blood and be listed on the National Bone Marrow Registry. As part of the promotion, Senator Hardiman donated his blood to be placed on the registry at “Celebrate Black History Annual Bone Marrow/Blood Drive” at the Michigan Community Blood Centers in Grand Rapids.

Each year more than 30,000 children and adults in the United States are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases, in which more than 70 diseases are treatable by a bone marrow or blood stem cell transplant. 70% of patients in need of a blood stem cell or marrow transplant must search for an unrelated donor.

“I first became involved with this cause when one of my dear friends Bertha Wilson, was diagnosed with a life-threatening blood disease that can only be cured with a marrow transplant. I was shocked at the small percentage of African Americans on the registry,” said Senator Hardiman.

As of July 2003, the National Marrow Donor Program based in Minneapolis, Minnesota maintains the world’s largest and most diverse registry of more than five million potential volunteer blood stem cell donors. Nevertheless, even with millions of potential donors on the registry, some patients are unable to find a match because of the rarity of their tissue traits. Tissue traits are more likely to be found among people of a particular racial or ethnic heritage.

Out of the five million potential donors on the national registry, only 380,000 are listed as African Americans. The need for minorities to donate bone marrow is in high demand. “I hope that by partnering with different organizations and promoting this cause throughout the state, this will be the first step toward broadening awareness and attaining our goal,” said Senator Hardiman.

In addition to donating a sample of his blood, Senator Hardiman arranged for a special presentation from the American Red Cross Mid-Michigan Chapter at the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus meeting on February 4, 2004. The theme of the presentation included the need for African American Legislators to promote the bone marrow registry in their communities. Senator Hardiman is also working on other ways to promote this cause throughout Michigan in February and will be working with the Michigan Legislative Black Caucus to help promote.

## **SENATOR HARDIMAN PROPOSED TWO NEW SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES**

Sen. Bill Hardiman introduced two bills this past week that would create specialty fund-raising license plates for the United Negro College Fund and Habitat for Humanity.

“Adding these two important organizations to the list of charities with specialty plates shows how much Michigan residents are ready to support these causes,” Hardiman said.

Senate Bill 957 would create a plate for the United Negro College Fund and SB 958 would create one for Habitat for Humanity. The fee for a specialty plate is \$35 in addition to the annual registration fee. The organizations receive \$25 for each plate sold.

The United Negro College Fund is the nation’s oldest minority higher-education assistance organization. It raises money for 39 member colleges and universities and awards financial assistance to students.

Habitat for Humanity is an international, nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization that helps provide housing to those in need. Volunteers build the homes and donate materials for the construction. People receiving homes help build the home as well. The Michigan Habitat organization built 209 homes in 2002. In 2003, they celebrated the construction of the 2,000th home in Michigan.

## **SENATOR HARDIMAN IS AMONG ONE OF ONLY SIX SENATORS THAT HAD A PERFECT VOTING RECORD IN 2003**

Only six senators had a perfect 100 percent voting record in 2003 according to a count conducted by [www.michiganvotes.org](http://www.michiganvotes.org)

The six Senators were: Liz BRATER (D-Ann Arbor), Mike GOSHCKA (R-Brant), Bill HARDIMAN(R-Kentwood), Bruce PATTERSON (R-Canton), Alan SANBORN (R-Richmond) and Gerald VANWOERKOM (R-Muskegon).

Congratulations Senator Hardiman for your hardwork in the Michigan Senate!

## **GOP AGENDA ANNOUNCED**

Senate Republican’s this week announced their 2004 agenda, “Working Today for Michigan’s Tomorrow.” The bold legislative agenda focuses on creating jobs, strengthening families and continuing to improve the quality of Michigan schools while also bringing state spending in line with existing revenues. The agenda is based on Michigan’s priorities including: improving Michigan’s competitiveness; protecting families from health threats, criminal predators and unfair financial burdens; stretching education dollars to ensure Michigan’s children get the best

education; preserving Michigan's beauty through land-use regulations, promoting recycling and limiting out-of-state trash; and building a healthy Michigan by lowering healthcare costs while increasing accessibility, reducing state spending, and continuing Senate oversight of government activities.

In addition, the Senate plans to announce JOBS II, which picks up where JOBS (Job Opportunities for Business Success) left off at the end of last year. The goal is to position Michigan as quickly as possible to take advantage the national economic recovery.

### **AMERICAN HEART MONTH**

Did you make a New Year's resolution last month to start living healthier? This might be just the incentive you need - February is American Heart Month. Heart disease has been the number one killer in America since 1990 and according to the Michigan Department of Community Health; heart disease is responsible for 40 percent of all deaths in Michigan. Women continue to think of heart disease as a man's disease, but according to the American Heart Association nearly half a million women in the United States will die from heart disease this year. Start living healthier today, go for a walk or ride a bike, eat healthier and quit smoking!

### **ABSTINENCE PACKAGE PLANNED**

Legislation being finalized for introduction in the Legislature would give parents a larger role in how public schools teach sex education. One part of the package would require students be taught about their responsibility as parents whether they're married or not, as well as define adoption as a positive option for unplanned pregnancies and encourage abstinence until marriage. The package would require teaching that abstinence is the only 100 percent effective way to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The legislation also would create health-education advisory boards formed by local school boards. Most members of the panels would have to be parents of children attending school in the district. Another part of the package would create a complaint process that could result in a 5-percent penalty in school aid for noncompliance.

### **MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNT TO BE ESTABLISHED**

Legislation has been introduced in the Senate that will allow for income tax deductions for preventive health care services and will establish a new medical savings account. In addition, the bills will allow for a single business tax or income tax credit for contributions to a medical savings account. The legislation is designed to give people more power over their health care by allowing them to use tax-deferred funds for preventive measures such as mammograms, well-baby checks and annual physicals.

### **REPUBLICANS PUSH SCHOOL FLEXIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY PACKAGE**

Republicans in the Legislature are pushing to give local school leaders more flexibility and control. A two-bill package would help make local districts more agile in improving student

performance by waiving some state and federal bureaucratic requirements. In return for the added flexibility, local school leaders would have to agree to meet well-defined, measurable goals on how their pupils are achieving more. However, these waivers would never include altering existing open meeting, student privacy, civil rights, or health and safety requirements.

### **Contact Information**

The Hardiman Herald by Senator Bill Hardiman is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of his activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact Senator Hardiman's office.

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